

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. ^{1 20} A vinyl siding panel comprising a first planar portion ²² extending the longitudinal length of the vinyl siding panel, said first planar portion comprising:

³⁴ a first edge and a second ³⁶ edge;

5 a width of at least about 4.0 inches from said first edge to said second edge; and

a surface variance of less than about 0.05 inches relative ^(to an imaginary straight line) connecting said first edge and said second edge.

2. The vinyl siding panel of claim 1 further comprising a reinforcement panel secured to said first planar portion.

3. The vinyl siding panel of claim 2 wherein said reinforcement panel is comprised of foam.

4. The vinyl siding panel of claim 1 wherein said first planar portion has an average thickness in the range from about 0.040 inches to about 0.050 inches.

5. The vinyl siding panel of claim 1 further comprising a nailing strip ²⁸ connected to said first edge of said first planar portion.

6. The vinyl siding panel of claim 1 further comprising a tongue ³⁰ connected to said first edge of said first planar portion, said tongue adapted to fit in a groove ³² of an adjacent, substantially similar, vinyl siding panel when installed on a structure.

7. The vinyl siding panel of claim 1 further comprising a groove ³² connected to said second edge of said first planar portion, said groove adapted to receive a tongue ³⁰ of an adjacent, substantially similar, vinyl siding panel when installed on a structure.

8. The vinyl siding panel of claim 1 further comprising a second planar portion ²⁴ extending the longitudinal length of the vinyl siding panel, said second planar portion comprising:

³⁸
a first edge and a second edge;

a width of at least about 4.0 inches from said first edge to said second edge of said second planar portion; and

a surface variance of less than about 0.05 inches relative to an imaginary straight line
5 connecting said first edge and said second edge of said second planar portion;

wherein said second planar portion is connected to said first planar portion by a first seam⁴⁶
to define a stepped contour.

9. The vinyl siding panel of claim 8 wherein the height of said first seam is at least about 0.5 inches.

10. The vinyl siding panel of claim 8 wherein said first planar portion is (substantially similar)
to said second planar portion.

²⁶
11. The vinyl siding panel of claim 8 further comprising a third planar portion extending the longitudinal length of the vinyl siding panel, said third planar portion comprising:

⁴² ⁴⁴
a first edge and a second edge;

a width of at least about 4.0 inches from said first edge to said second edge of said third planar portion; and

a surface variance of less than about 0.05 inches relative to an imaginary straight line connecting said first edge and said second edge of said third planar portion;

⁴⁸
20 wherein said third planar portion is connected to said first planar portion by a second seam to define a stepped contour.

12. The vinyl siding panel of claim 11 wherein the height of said second seam is at least about 0.5 inches.

13. The vinyl siding panel of claim 11 wherein said first planar portion, said second planar portion, and said third planar portion are substantially similar;

14. A vinyl siding panel comprising a first planar portion extending the longitudinal length of the vinyl siding panel, said first planar portion comprising:

5 a first edge and a second edge;

a width of at least about 4.0 inches from said first edge to said second edge; and

(a radius curvature) between said first edge and said second edge of at least about 85 inches.

15. The vinyl siding panel of claim 14 further comprising a reinforcement panel secured to said first planar portion.

16. The vinyl siding panel of claim 15 wherein said reinforcement panel is comprised of foam.

17. The vinyl siding panel of claim 14 wherein said first planar portion has an average thickness in the range from about 0.040 inches to about 0.050 inches.

18. The vinyl siding panel of claim 14 further comprising a nailing strip connected to said first edge of said first planar portion.

19. The vinyl siding panel of claim 14 further comprising a tongue connected to said first edge of said first planar portion, said tongue adapted to fit in a groove of an adjacent, substantially similar, vinyl siding panel when installed on a structure.

20. The vinyl siding panel of claim 14 further comprising a groove connected to said second edge of said first planar portion, said groove adapted to receive a tongue of an adjacent, substantially similar, vinyl siding panel when installed on a structure.

21. The vinyl siding panel of claim 14 further comprising a second planar portion extending the longitudinal length of the vinyl siding panel, said second planar portion comprising:

a first edge and a second edge;

a width of at least about 4.0 inches from said first edge to said second edge of said second

5 planar portion; and

a radius curvature between said first edge and said second edge of said second planar portion of at least about 85 inches;

wherein said second planar portion is connected to said first planar portion by a first seam to define a stepped contour.

22. The vinyl siding panel of claim 21 wherein the height of said first seam is at least about 0.5 inches.

23. The vinyl siding panel of claim 21 wherein said first planar portion and said second planar portion are substantially similar.

24. The vinyl siding panel of claim 21 further comprising a third planar portion extending the longitudinal length of the vinyl siding panel, said third planar portion comprising:

a first edge and a second edge;

a width of at least about 4.0 inches from said first edge to said second edge of said third planar portion; and

a radius curvature between said first edge and said second edge of said third planar portion of at least about 85 inches;

wherein said third planar portion is connected to said first planar portion by a second seam to define a stepped contour.

25. The vinyl siding panel of claim 24 wherein the height of said second seam is at least about 0.5 inches.

26. The vinyl siding panel of claim 24 wherein said first planar portion, said second planar portion, and said third planar portion are (substantially similar.)

5 27. A method of producing a vinyl siding panel having a substantially straight, planar portion, said method comprising:

extruding at least one vinyl composition; and

passing said at least one vinyl composition through a calibrator defining a passageway corresponding to said substantially straight, planar portion, said passageway having a first edge and a second edge, a width of at least about 4.0 inches from said first edge to said second edge, and a surface variance of less than about 0.05 inches relative to an imaginary straight line connecting said first edge and said second edge.

28. A method of producing a vinyl siding panel having a substantially straight, planar portion, said method comprising:

extruding at least one vinyl composition; and

passing said at least one vinyl composition through a calibrator defining a passageway corresponding to said substantially straight, planar portion, said passageway having a first edge and a second edge, a width of at least about 4.0 inches from said first edge to said second edge, and a radius curvature between said first edge and said second edge of at least about 85 inches.